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30 August 1953

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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SUMMARY

25X1

3. Comment on possible Viet Minh transfer of regular troops to south Vietnam (page 4).

25X1

WESTERN EUROPE

5. Comment on heightened Italian-Yugoslav tension (page 5).
6. Comment on 28 August Soviet notes on Austria (page 5).

No articles selected!

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- 2 -

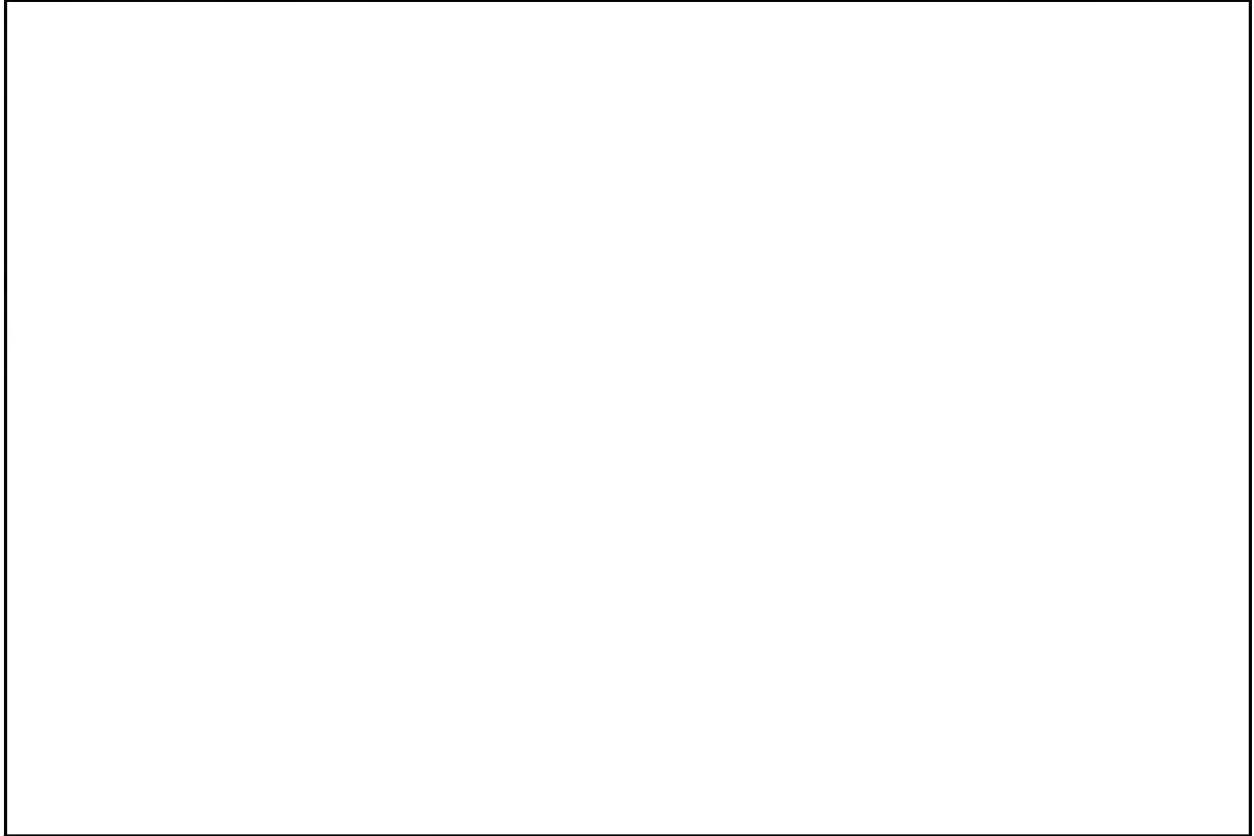
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30 Aug 53

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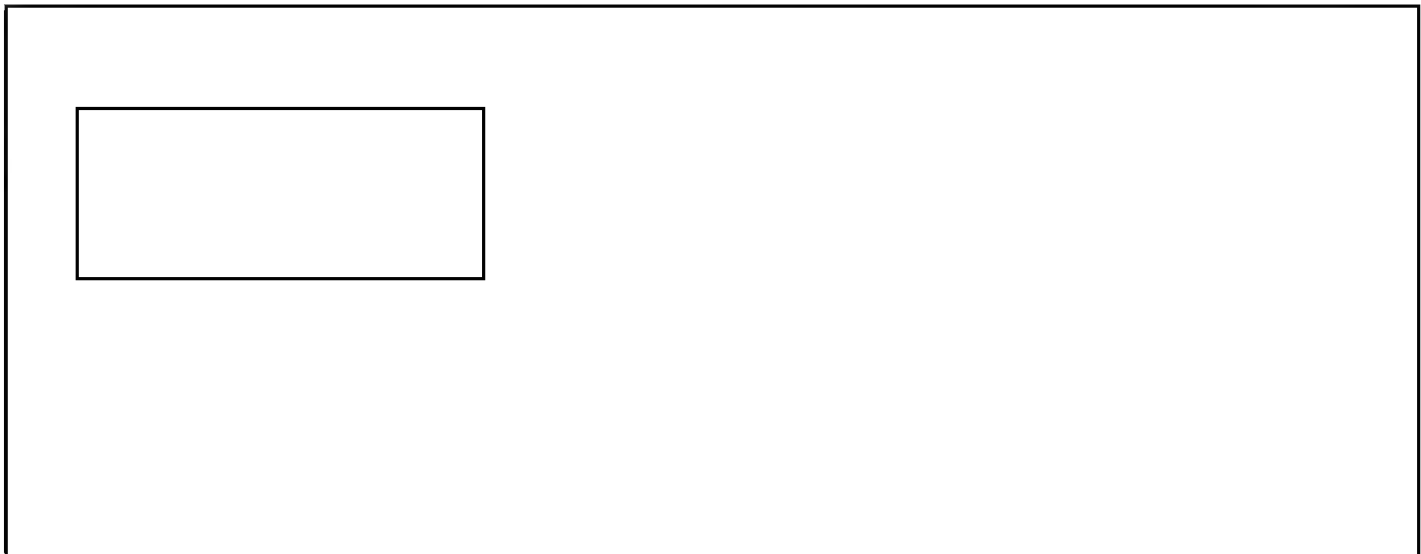
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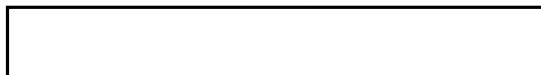
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- 3 -

25X1A



30 Aug 53

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3. Comment on possible Viet Minh transfer of regular troops to south Vietnam:

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[REDACTED] The Viet Minh in mid-July reportedly ordered the evacuation of the civilian population from several villages in the Plaine des Joncs area, about 75 miles southwest of Saigon in south Vietnam. The area to be cleared is one of the few in the Plaine des Joncs capable of accommodating a large military force.

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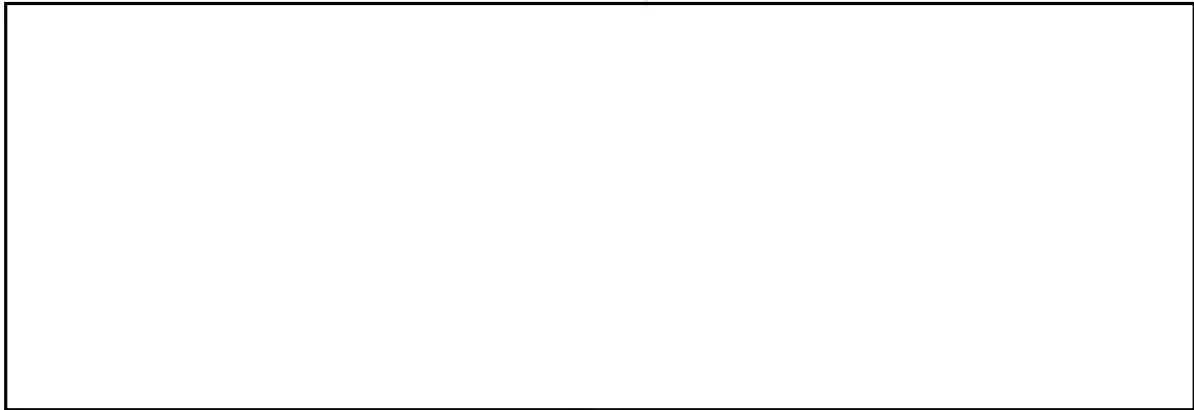
The Viet Minh has in the past relied largely on local guerrillas to carry out its relatively limited objectives in south Vietnam. The transfer of large numbers of regular Viet Minh troops from the Tonkin area so far south would be difficult, but would seriously complicate the French military effort.

25X1

25X1A

30 Aug 53

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WESTERN EUROPE

5. Comment on heightened Italian-Yugoslav tension:

25X1A



Italian prime minister Pella's unprecedentedly sharp reaction to a Yugoslav reiteration on 25 August of claims to the entire Free Territory of Trieste reflects Italy's growing fears that developing American-Yugoslav military cooperation will jeopardize its prospects for regaining Trieste.

Pella's call of an emergency cabinet meeting, his reported threat to move troops to the Yugoslav frontier, and the violent reaction of the Italian press to the Yugoslav statement all suggest that the Rome government will now take a more aggressive stand in relation to Trieste. Joint Italian-Yugoslav cooperation, which is a prerequisite to strengthening NATO's southern flank, has become more remote.

There is no evidence to support rumors current in Italy that Yugoslavia intends in the near future to annex Zone B or to settle the Trieste issue by force.

6. Comment on 28 August Soviet notes on Austria:

25X1A



The Soviet government's 28 August reply to the Western invitation to a meeting of the Austrian treaty deputies again underlines the Soviet desire to discuss the Austrian question only in connection with the broader German problem. Moscow repeated its

25X1A

- 5 -



30 Aug 53

charge of 25 May that the state treaty discussions are not within the competence of the deputy foreign ministers, but added that a solution of the German problem could contribute to an Austrian settlement.

The Kremlin's renewed demand for a complete and unconditional withdrawal of the abbreviated draft treaty is probably designed to generate additional British, French, and Austrian pressure on the United States for acceptance of the earlier long draft treaty as the only basis for discussion.

25X1A

- 6 -

30 Aug 53